

WEST BERKSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

MASTERS, ISSUES AND QUESTIONS

**John Cowley, Director, Mineral & Resource Planning Associates Ltd, for and on behalf of
Mr and Mrs Mills, Bradley Court, Chieveley, Berkshire**

Position Statement

Soundness Matter 4 & 6 – Net Self-Sufficiency in Waste Management – Other Strategic Policies

Issue 1 – Policy Terms – Policy 5, General Waste Management Facilities – Policy 7, Landfill

Question A number of the Inspectors questions focus on similar concerns of my clients and I deal with them all together in this single response

Response

1 The MWLP concludes, erroneously, that landfill is essential for the restoration of any future extraction operations at Chieveley Services mineral allocation. The restoration of that site, if it were to go ahead, could be achieved to a net biodiversity habitat gain, without landfill and in an expeditious manner.

2 If mineral extraction has to proceed at Chieveley Services then the MWLP should be amended to require that restoration takes place without the importation of any wastes or any soils.

3 Soils should be excluded as well as wastes so as to ensure that the substrate for restoration replicates the soil characteristics in and around the site and doesn't give rise to anomalous vegetation or habitat.

4 However, and further, there is a massive oversupply of voids in West Berkshire and there is no need or justification for allocating the site at Chieveley for landfill. Due to that oversupply any landfill operations here would take many years to complete and will create harm to the area for an unacceptable length of time, as has happened with existing and previous landfill sites in the area around Chieveley. There is no need and the landfill provision should be deleted.

5 The site is in the AONB and the harm that would arise from such landfill operations is unacceptable.

6 The waste to be deposited would be sourced mainly from outside the AONB and therefore the operations do not meet local AONB needs and are unacceptable.

7 That harm and lack of need does not provide exceptional circumstances justifying landfill operations in the AONB.

8 The MWLP should be amended such that in the circumstances that mineral extraction permission is given at Chieveley Services then it should be made clear that landfill is neither needed or will subsequently be permitted because that does not meet the exceptional circumstances test.

9 The MWLP would need to extend that removal of landfill from the AONB in relation to any other mineral extraction site that might come forward in the AONB.